CLAIMS

1. A data logging method for transferring data from a plurality of client devices to a server, said method comprising:

building a schedule of transfer periods based on an estimated transfer size for each device;

receiving an actual transfer size for a device;

updating the schedule for all devices with respect to the difference in the received actual transfer size and the corresponding estimated transfer size for said device; and

transferring data for said device.

2. A data logging method as in claim 1 wherein said step of building a schedule of transfer periods comprises:

estimating a future transfer size for a device;

calculating a transfer period when the device is scheduled to download its data to the server based on that device's future transfer size estimate and other devices' transfer periods;

storing the transfer periods and a corresponding device reference in a data structure; and

performing the above steps with respect to each device.

3. A method as in claim 2 wherein the step of updating the schedule comprises re-calculating the transfer period for the device based on the actual transfer size.

4. A method as in claim 2 or 3 wherein the step of updating the schedule further comprises: re-calculating transfer periods of other devices in the schedule if the re-calculated transfer period of said device effects the transfer periods of the other devices.

5. A method as in claim 2, 3 or 4 wherein, if the originally calculated transfer period differs from the re-calculated transfer period, one or more subsequent transfers are re-scheduled.

6. A method as in any one of claims 2 to 5 wherein the future transfer size is an estimate based on a client's historic transfer size.

7. A method as in any one of claims 2 to 6 wherein the future transfer size is acquired from the client based on the present size of the log data.

8. A method as in any one of claims 2 to 7 wherein the future transfer size is an estimate based on the client's historic transfer size and the present size of the log data.

9. A data logging system for transferring data from a plurality of client devices to a server, said system comprising:

means for building a schedule of transfer periods based on an estimated transfer size for each device;

means for receiving an actual transfer size for a device;

means for updating the schedule for all devices with respect to the difference in the received actual transfer size and the corresponding estimated transfer size for said device; and

means for transferring data for said device.

10. A computer program product for transferring data from a plurality of client devices to a server, said computer program product comprising computer program instructions stored on a computer-readable storage medium for, when loaded into a computer and executed, causing a computer to carry out the steps of:

building a schedule of transfer periods based on an estimated transfer size for each device;

receiving an actual transfer size for a device;

updating the schedule for all devices with respect to the difference in the received actual transfer size and the corresponding estimated transfer size for said device; and

transferring data for said device.

11. A service for consolidating log data from a plurality of remote devices to a server over a wireless network and supplying said consolidated log data on demand to a service requester, said web service performing a method comprising the steps of:

building a schedule of transfer periods based on an estimated transfer size for each device;

receiving an actual transfer size for a device;

updating the schedule for all devices with respect to the difference in the received actual transfer size and the corresponding estimated transfer size for said device; and

transferring data for said device.

12. A service requestor for receiving consolidated log data from a web service, said web service consolidating said log data from a plurality of remote devices over a wireless network, said web service performing a method comprising the steps of:

building a schedule of transfer periods based on an estimated transfer size for each device;

receiving an actual transfer size for a device;

updating the schedule for all devices with respect to the difference in the received actual transfer size and the corresponding estimated transfer size for said device; and

transferring data for said device.